



# United States Department of the Interior

BUREAU OF LAND MANAGEMENT

COOS BAY DISTRICT OFFICE

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1792

EA OR125-03-06

## **Decision Documentation for Fruin Moon DM EA No. OR125-03-06**

### **Background:**

The Umpqua Resource Area, Coos Bay District Bureau of Land Management, using input from District resource staff and public input, has prepared an Environmental Assessment (EA) and a Finding of No Significant Impact (FONSI) for North Coquille DM/CT. There is a No Action Alternative and a Proposed Action Alternative. The Action Alternative proposes to thin approximately 993 acres, convert approximately 61 acres of red alder, construct approximately 1.0 miles of new road, renovate or improve 14.7 miles of road, and decommission 6.4 net miles of road. The project areas analyzed in the EA are located within the Late Successional Reserve (LSR) and General Forest Management Area (GFMA) land use allocation in Sections 7,8,16,17,19 and 30 of T. 26 S., R. 10 W., and Section 25 of T. 26 S., R. 11 W., W.M.

Management objectives are to:

1. Improve LSR, RR, and GFMA stand structure by thinning out excess trees in overstocked stands to enhance the growth and vigor of the residual trees to provide larger and healthier trees for future management objectives while maintaining native species diversity.
2. Replace red alder dominated stands with conifer.
3. Within the LSR and RR maintain and/or restore structural habitat complexity typically found in late-successional or old-growth forests, such as large green trees, large down logs, and snags.
4. Implement recommendations and management priorities contained in the *South Coast - Northern Klamath Late-Successional Reserve Assessment* to: enlarge existing interior late-successional habitat blocks, improve habitat connections between late-successional reserves, maintain and improve connectivity habitat within late-successional reserves.
5. Work towards the goals in the *Western Oregon Districts Transportation Management Plan* by improving problem roads and decommissioning roads not needed for continued resource management.

6. Provide cost effective management that would enable implementation of these management objectives while providing collateral economic benefits to society.
7. Protect and/or restore rare and key habitats (wetlands, cliff habitats, talus habitats, grassy balds or meadows).
8. Provide for habitat restoration projects where appropriate and within the scope of BLM regulatory authority.

**Decision:**

It is my decision to implement the Proposed Action as it applies to Units 17, 19, 20, 21, 22, 23, 38, 39, 39H, and 41B, referred to as the Fruin Moon DMT in the EA. The Proposed Action of EA OR125-03-06, that analyzed the environmental effects of the Fruin Moon DMT of the North Coquille DM/CT density management thinning project, is hereby adopted. Action on Unit 18 of the Fruin Moon DMT, a younger stand with widely spaced trees, is being deferred to allow it to develop on its own trajectory.

The following EA estimates have been changed to reflect field verification:

**Fruin Moon DMT**

EA Unit Number	Fruin Moon DMT Unit Number	Estimated Acres	Actual Acres	Estimated New Road Construction	Actual Road Construction
17	1	20	15	0.0	0.0
19	2	35	25	0.0	0.0
20	3	99	75	0.1	0.1
21	6	11	10	0.0	0.0
22	4	66	46	0.0	0.0
23	5	24	22	0.0	0.0
38	7	23	13	0.0	0.0
39 and 41B	8	86	65	0.2	0.2
39H (alder)	9	7	8	0.0	0.0
<b>Totals</b>		371	279	0.3	0.3

The Proposed Action to manage the timber stand densities on 371 acres has been reduced to 279 acres, allowing some portion of the stands in the project area to develop on their own trajectory.

The Proposed Action, to construct 0.3 miles of road identified in the EA, remains at 0.3 miles.

The design features will be implemented as described in the *Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan* and its *Record of Decision* (RMP) (BLM, May 1995), as supplemented and amended, which conforms with the *Final Supplemental Environmental Impact Statement on Management of Habitat for Late-Successional and Old-Growth Forest Related Species Within the Range of the Northern Spotted Owl* (Northwest Forest Plan) and its *Record of Decision* (ROD) (Interagency, 1994) as supplemented and amended.

The proposed activities that may affect listed species within the project area were submitted for consultation with the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service in accordance with Section 7(A)(4) of the Endangered Species Act of 1973 [16 U.S.C. 1536(A)(2) and (A)(4) as amended. The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service issued a Biological Opinion (BO Ref. #1-15-03-F-0608) dated October 1, 2003. The proposed action would not contribute to the need to list any special status species either under the Endangered Species Act or the OR/WA Special Status Species Policy.

Based on analysis by the Field Office fisheries biologist, it has been concluded that the proposed actions will not adversely affect Essential Fish Habitat (EFH). There are no listed fish species within the project area and it is determined that the project will not affect the coho salmon, a species proposed for listing by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration (NOAA) Fisheries. Therefore, consultation with the NOAA Fisheries is not warranted.

Actions within this density management will be consistent with the direction proposed in the Record of Decision and Resource Management Plan for Management of Port-Orford-Cedar in Southwest Oregon, Coos Bay, Medford, and Roseburg Districts (USDI May 2004).

#### **Rationale:**

The Proposed Action is an alternative that meets the intent of the ROD for the Northwest Forest Plan by restoring desired forest stand trajectories in the Late-Successional Reserve land use allocation. The project is also consistent with the Riparian Reserve Standards and Guidelines of the Northwest Forest Plan and the Aquatic Conservation Strategy, and will contribute to restoring the fifth-field watershed of the project area over the long-term. The proposed project is intended to implement a portion of specific management opportunities identified in the North Fork Coquille Watershed Analysis (USDI BLM 2001). The decision is consistent with the ROD for the *Northwest Forest Plan and the Coos Bay District Resource Management Plan/Final Environmental Impact Statement* and the *Record of Decision* as supplemented and amended.

#### **Administrative Remedies:**

In accordance with *Forest Management Regulations* at 43 CFR 5003.2, the decision for this timber sale will not become effective or be subject to formal protest until the *Notice of Sale* is published "...in a newspaper of general circulation in the area where the lands affected by the decision are located..." For this project, the *Notice of Sale* will be published in *The World* newspaper on July 29 and August 5, 2004.

#### **Decision recommended by:**

Natural Resource Staff Administrator

Kathy Wall    Kathy Wall

Date: 08/03/2004

Acting for Natural Resource Staff Administrator  
Kerrie Palermo    Kerrie Palermo

Date: 08/03/2004

**Decision approved by:**

Umpqua Field Office Manager  
M. Elaine Raper    M. Elaine Raper

Date: 08/03/2004